



**Staying Safe, Smart,
and Well Online:
Empowering Older
Adults in the Digital
Age**

**March 24 - 25, 2026
9A - 12P**

**Minze Ye, PhD
Assistant Professor**

UTRGVTM

School of
Social Work

Sociology

Day 1

Time (Central Standard Time)	Activity	Presenter and Description
9A - 915	Welcome and Overview	Brief introductions and overview of the day
915 - 1030	Panel: Building Digital Confidence	<p><i>Digital Challenges Experienced by Older Adults in Hidalgo County</i> Dee Ochoa Program Director Silver Ribbon Community Partners</p> <p><i>Defining the Current Senior Population</i> Robert Obregon Project Coordinator, Texas Senior Medicare Patrol Better Business Bureau Education Foundation</p> <p><i>Digital Tools, Human Impact: Enhancing Older Adults' Wellness and Caregiver Support</i> Leticia Guzman- Sanchez Regional Operations Manager RGV WellMed Charitable Foundation</p> <p><i>What Am I Actually Sharing? Everyday Data Decisions and how to Stay in Control</i> Yair Cabrera Menendez Computer Science PhD Candidate, The University of Texas at El Paso</p> <p><i>Acceptance and effectiveness of video-conferenced depression treatment and fall prevention for homebound older adults</i> Namkee G. Choi, PhD Professor and Louis and Ann Wolens Centennial Chair in Gerontology, School of Social Work, University of Texas at Austin</p>
1030 - 1040	Break and Informal Networking	
1040 - 1130	Workshop: Digital Literacy Bingo Game	<p><i>Techno Loteria</i> Darryl Greer Regional Program Man Older Adults Technology Services (OATS) From AARP</p>
1130 - 1150	Group Reflection and Post Survey	Facilitated discussion on key takeaways; complete post-survey on digital literacy awareness.
1150 - 1200	Closing & Day 2 Preview	Wrap-up and brief preview of Day 2 (digital fraud focus).

Day 2

Time (Central Standard Time)	Activity	Presenter and Description
9A - 915	Digital Inclusion	City of Edinburg Mayor - Omar Ochoa will make a proclamation recognizing the event.
915 - 1030	Panel: Recognizing and Preventing Digital Fraud	<p><i>How Not to Get Hacked: The internet is a beach with no lifeguard.</i> Kenneth Castillo Security Analyst RGV Cyber</p> <p><i>Navigating Through NCDV Digital Resources</i> Dyanyra Fonseca Outreach & Enrollment Worker with Nuestra Clinica Del Valle, Donna, TX.</p> <p><i>Tap, Click, or Scam? Staying Safe with Digital Wallets</i> Veronica Alegria State Outreach Specialist Senior Medicare Patro</p> <p><i>Protecting Older Adults in Hospice Care: Digital Risks and Vulnerabilities</i> Monalisa Gonzalez, BS Education & Development Coordinator Aurora House Foundation</p> <p><i>Social and Personal Factors That Influence Older Adult's Technology Use</i> Ashley S. Bangert Associate Professor, Psychology Department, The University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP)</p>
1030 - 1040	Break and Informal Networking	
1040 - 1130	Workshop: "Spot the Scam" Interactive Activity	<p><i>Digital Wallets</i> Veronica Alegria State Outreach Specialist Senior Medicare Patro</p>
1130 - 1150	Group Reflection and Post Survey	Facilitated discussion; complete post-survey on fraud awareness and confidence.
1150 - 1200	Closing & Day 2 Preview	Share resources, thank speakers and partners, and outline follow-up opportunities.

Thank You

Thank you for attending and participating in this 2-day workshop. We hope the workshop increases your confidence when online and increases your awareness of digital fraud.

Dr. Ye is an assistant professor at the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, U.S.A. She is passionate about developing systems that enhance the quality of life for older individuals while reducing healthcare costs. Currently, she is leading two lines of studies: (1) focusing on the sleep health of custodial grandparent families and (2) employing a community engagement approach to establish digital health interventions for older adults residing along the U.S.-Mexican border. She has contributed to top journals, including ‘Innovation in Aging,’ ‘The Journal of Aging & Social Policy,’ ‘Aging & Mental Health,’ and ‘The Journal of Applied Gerontology.’ Additionally, she is a co-author of ‘Community Eldercare Ecology in China,’ a publication by Palgrave Macmillan.



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We offer our heartfelt appreciation to our UTRGV employees, participants, and community partners. Your commitment and partnership were essential to making this conference a success.